United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

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DH/991
8 October 1991

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General asks former United States Secretary of State Cyrus Vance to be his Personal Envoy on Yugoslavia with a view to assist him in discharge of responsibilities entrusted to him by Security Council.

- Secretary-General, in statement at UNICEF/WHO ceremony, hails achievement of immunizing 80 per cent of children of the world, saying it is "an accomplishment of immense significance".

- General Assembly is addressed by Foreign Minister of Ethiopia, as well as by Permanent Representatives of Antigua and Barbuda, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Belize. Foreign Ministers of Comoros, Saint Lucia and Chad, as well as State Secretary for European Affairs and Agriculture of Belgium also address Assembly.

- Secretary-General in message to mark International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction says strategies for sustainable development must take into account vulnerability of countries to natural disasters.

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Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar announced today that he has asked Cyrus Vance to serve as his Personal Envoy on Yugoslavia with a view to assist him in the discharge of the responsibilities entrusted to him under Security Council resolution 713 (1991). Under that resolution, the Council had invited the Secretary-General to offer his assistance without delay, in consultation with the Government of Yugoslavia and the European Community, and to report to the Council.

Mr. Vance, who was the United States Secretary of State from 1977 to 1980, has agreed to assist the Secretary-General in his efforts.

Since the adoption of the resolution on 25 September, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar has been personally in touch with the Government of Yugoslavia; the current Presidency of the European Community; the current Chairman of the States participating in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE); and with Lord Carrington, who is the Chairman of the Hague Peace

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Conference on Yugoslavia; as well as with other interested parties. Mr. Vance will assist the Secretary-General in pursuing the above mentioned contacts and in the preparation of the report called for by the Council.

The Secretary-General told correspondents this morning that he would meet Lord Carrington on Thursday, 10 October. He was scheduled to meet today with the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands, whose country currently holds the Chairmanship of the European Community, and with the Permanent Representatives of Belgium, France and the United Kingdom.

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The Secretary-General today called the 80 per cent immunization coverage of young children -- the 1990 goal of Universal Child Immunization set by the international community in 1985 -- an "accomplishment of immense significance".

At a ceremony at Headquarters at which the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) certified the goal, the Secretary-General said it was a "major step towards truly universal immunization against the foremost diseases which kill and maim the most vulnerable among us".

The next goal, Mr. Pérez de Cuellar said, was to immunize 90 per cent of the world's children by the year 2000 -- a goal set at the World Summit for Children last year.

The global immunization programme, which involves WHO, UNICEF and many other organizations in almost every country, vaccinated more than 100 million children in the developing world last year against measles, whooping cough, tetanus, polio, tuberculosis and diptheria.

Speaking at a press conference this afternoon, Executive Director of UNICEF James Grant said the global immunization programme was "the largest peacetime collaborative effort in world history". He also noted that the immunization levels for children under age one in the third world were now higher than those for children aged two in the United States and the United Kingdom.

Also present at the press conference, WHO Director-General Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima called the success of the immunization programme "a lasting accomplishment that will have an impact on humanity for decades to come".

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Opening this morning's General Assembly debate, the Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda, Lionel Hurst, said that the island States of the world, aware of the unique environmental dangers which faced island populations, had united in the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), proposed by Trinidad and Tobago and chaired by Vanuatu. The mission of this alliance was to articulate a common position during the negotiations which should culminate in the Convention on Climate Change. As a member of this

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alliance, he said, Antigua and Barbuda, intended to live up to its responsibility in forging this Convention.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia, Seyoum Mesfin, spoke about what he called "the painful experience" of the past 17 years in Ethiopia with a "ruthless military".

He told the Assembly that his country had noted with sadness the "deafening silence of the United Nations system" in the face of gross violations of human rights in Ethiopia and its failure to make tangible efforts to stop the "terrorist regime". It was his Government's view that the United Nations should have spoken out with sufficient vigour, instead of "hiding behind a convenient excuse" to justify inaction. In contrast, Mr. Mesfin said, donor nations and non-governmental organizations had acted with tremendous dignity and compassion and had persisted in their determination to provide timely assistance to victims of drought and famine.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Jonathan Peters, told the Assembly that his country would continue to vigorously promote unification among countries of the Windward Islands of the Caribbean. He said current initiatives to establish a political union among the four Windward Islands represented a concerted attempt to merge the limited resources of these islands to create an enhanced environment for economic growth and development.

Mr. Peters also expressed his Government's support for the application of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) for observer status to the General Assembly, which will be taken up by the body on Wednesday, 16 October. He said the observer relationship with the United Nations would greatly enhance CARICOM's ability to coordinate the activities of its member States in areas of competence.

In his statement, the Permanent Representative of Belize, Carl Rogers, said that the recognition by the Guatemalan Government of the independence and sovereignty of Belize marked the beginning of a new chapter of mutual respect, dignity and cooperation between the two countries. He went on to say that the decision of his Government to adopt maritime legislation which extends the territorial sea of Belize to 12 miles, while maintaining the existing three mile territorial sea in the southern waters of Belize, had removed a source of potential friction and had guaranteed Guatemala's access to the Caribbean.

Speaking in this afternoon general debate, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Comoros, Said Hassane Said Hachim, said that for the past 16 years the question of the Comorian island of Mayotte had not found a satisfactory resolution, despite all the resolutions adopted to that end by the United Nations.

Mr. Hachim reiterated that his Government would pursue its unremitting efforts for the return of the island of Mayotte to the Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros through a peaceful resolution of that issue and according to international law.

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In his statement, the Foreign Minister of Saint Lucia, Emmanuel Neville Cenac, said there was an urgent need, within the broad powers granted to the Security Council under Chapter VII of the Charter, "for an early warning mechanism to identify and react to emerging global issues before they reach the point of crisis".

The situation in Haiti, he said, was a case in point. Unless the military was replaced, there would be "no end to the tragic game of musical chairs being played with the lives of 6 million Haitians".

He said if President Aristide were to ask the United Nations to restore Haiti to democratic rule, Saint Lucia would "hasten to give an affirmative response to that request". In the meanwhile, he said, "all other legitimate means must be employed to quickly bring about a return to constitutional government in Haiti".

In his statement to the General Assembly, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chad, Soungui Ahmed, said that since last year there had been an improvement in the relations between his country and Libya over the border dispute opposing the two nations. Libya and Chad, he said, had called on the International Court of Justice to arbitrate their litigation and had committed themselves to comply with its decision.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belgium, Paul De-Keersmaeker, spoke on the question of human rights, saying the international community had to provide itself with sufficient means to change the behaviour of States violating human rights when confidential procedures and pressure from public opinion remain ineffective. He said his country supports the role of the Security Council in these matters and proposed the creation of an International Court for Human Rights and the appointment of a High Commissioner as the most important possible innovation.

In a statement yesterday, the Permanent Representative of Rwanda, François Ngamkiyentwali, recalled that in October last year the armed forces from Uganda and the "National Resistance Army" invaded Rwanda and then were driven out. Justification for the attack, he said, was the supposed refusal of the Rwandan Government to allow Rwandan refugees to return to their country. A state of war had existed in Rwanda since that time, he added. Just months before the invasion, a third meeting between representatives of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had taken place in Kigali and an agreement had been reached to conduct a survey of the refugees situation. Three solutions were offered, he continued, to the refugee problem: voluntary resettlement: naturalization in Uganda; a third possibility to be chosen by the refugees themselves. The negotiations were to be completed by January 1992.

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In a message to mark the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction, the Secretary-General today called attention to the objective of the Decade for Disaster Reduction -- to reduce the immense loss of human life and destruction caused by natural disasters.

He called for the development and strengthening of national capabilities to reduce the impact of disasters. As the world focused increasingly on strategies for sustainable development, it must take into account the vulnerability of so many countries to natural disasters, he said. Tragically, this vulnerability had been underscored during the first two years of the Decade by volcanic eruptions in Japan and the Philippines, an earthquake in Iran, floods in China, and the devastating cyclone in Bangladesh.

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# WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General expresses hope that cease-fire in Yugoslavia will hold until peaceful solution is found; will meet with Lord Carrington and Cyrus Vance tomorrow.

- Director-General of International Atomic Energy Agency confirms that inspection team in Iraq uncovered documents which show that Iraq was well advanced in nuclear weapons production.

- General Assembly hears statements by Foreign Ministers of Dominica, Bahamas, Solomon Islands and Sudan, as well as by Chairman of Military Council and Council of Ministers of Lesotho and by Permanent Representative of Lithuania.

- United Nations receives check from United States Government for some $180 million towards the regular budget.

- Secretary-General opens session of Special High-Level Council of International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.

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Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar told correspondents this morning that he was pleased that the cease-fire in Yugoslavia was holding and that he hoped it would last until a peaceful solution was found.

In reply to a question about what the role of Cyrus Vance would be, the Secretary-General said he had asked Mr. Vance to be his Personal Envoy to be able to get independent information "and not be informed through the papers". Mr. Vance would join him in a meeting tomorrow with Lord Carrington, in order to see how the United Nations could help in bringing about a peaceful solution in Yugoslavia.

The Security Council had asked the Secretary-General in a resolution adopted on 25 September to consult with the Government of Yugoslavia and the

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European Community, and to report to the Council.

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The Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has confirmed that the last inspection team in Iraq uncovered documents which contained conclusive evidence that Iraq was "well-advanced in the production of a nuclear weapon".

At a press conference at United Nations yesterday afternoon, IAEA head Hans Blix said the inspectors discovered active plans for the production of Lithium 6 -- a substance used to produce hydrogen bombs.

The IAEA team, which uncovered some 45,000 pages of documents on Iraq's nuclear development programme, was detained for four days in a Baghdad parking lot last month.

According to Mr. Blix, the documents will not be fully scanned and translated for weeks. Meanwhile, a preliminary report was presented to the Security Council yesterday.

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Opening this morning's debate in the General Assembly, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Dominica, Brian Alleyne, drew attention to the problem of the international traffic in narcotic drugs to which, he said, the Caribbean region was particularly vulnerable. He suggested that, as a deterrent, the international community try and stabilize the price for the narrow band of commodities on which most developing countries depended to make it more attractive for peasants to grow such traditional export crops as coffee, cocoa, bananas, than to grow marijuana, coca or opium poppies.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Public Personnel of the Bahamas, Clement T. Maynard, told the Assembly that his country remained deeply concerned by its continued lack of access to international resources on a concessionary basis and its exclusion from official development assistance. Therefore, he said, the Bahamas welcomed the enterprise of the American initiatives whose proposals on the management of external debt, investment promotion, trade liberalization and environment were critical to the development of countries in the region. The Bahamas encouraged other developed countries to take similar initiatives.

In his statement, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Solomon Islands, Sir Peter Kenilorea, expressed the concern of his Government at the steady deterioration of the environmental quality in the South Pacific, saying that it was the industrialized nations that were mainly responsible for the destruction of the natural habitat of the region. The island countries of the Pacific especially, he said, were looking forward to a successful outcome of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Brazil. In the meantime, they were playing an active role within a group alliance of small island States at the United Nations -- AOSIS -- in making

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recommendations for the Conference at the various meetings preparing that event.

In his statement, Major-General Elias Phisoana Ramaema, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Lesotho, said his country and the Southern African region had not lived in isolation from the current international climate of peace and reconciliation. He stressed that diplomatic efforts in Angola and Mozambique, however tenuous, had made breakthroughs that put the people of Lesotho's neighbours on a firm path towards peace.

However, he said, Lesotho remained concerned about the unpredictable and volatile situation in South Africa. The General cited the uncertainties generated by continuing widespread violence there which, he said, had been compounded by the "faltering progress" made towards negotiating a constitution for a truly democratic South Africa. He called on the parties in South Africa to live up to the responsibilities of their historic mission for the future of South Africa.

Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Sudan, Ali Ahmed Sahloul, told the Assembly that all the allegations made to the effect that half of the population of his country would starve were without foundation. The international community had played a role in relieving disaster problems in the Sudan and he expressed appreciation for the "Lifeline" projects. His Government would do what it could to smooth relief operations and to provide food, despite the fact that most of those returning refugees were carrying weapons to be used against his Government. Further, he said, while the Sudan supported the ongoing Lifeline projects, its sovereignty had to be respected.

The Permanent Representative of Lithuania, Anicetas Simutis, expressed his country's gratitude to the Governments, in particular Iceland and the other Nordic countries, that had contributed to the independence of his nation.

Freedom was not easy, he said; Lithuania's national economy was entering an intense period of reconstruction and reorganization after years of central planning and neglect.

Lithuania was now enduring the terrible consequences of careless development and disregard for the environment. Pollution levels and waste residue were reaching alarming levels, and less than a hundred miles from the capital, the Ignalina nuclear power station had serious safety problems.

* * *

A United Nations spokesman announced today that the Organization had received from the United States Government a check for $181,044,000 towards the regular budget. Two days ago, on 7 October, the United Nations had received a check from the United States for $6,062,715. The Secretary-General was to address the General Assembly's Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) on the question of the United Nations financial crisis tomorrow.

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Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar today reaffirmed his conviction that hundreds of millions of people can be protected from tragedy and that major setbacks to economic development can be avoided through world-wide effort for disaster reduction.

Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar was addressing the inaugural meeting of the Special High-Level Council of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction today, which is being observed as the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction. The Decade aims to reduce the loss of life, property damage and the social and economic disruption caused by floods, landslides, volcanic eruptions, wildfires, drought, desertification and other calamities of a natural origin.

In his opening address, the Secretary-General said natural disasters have consequences which go far beyond their immediate economic impact and often set back the process of economic development for many years. He stressed the importance of public awareness particularly in disaster-prone countries, and that of the development of early warning systems.

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10 October 1991

# THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General's Personal Envoy to go to Yugoslavia tomorrow, for 7 to 10 days.

- Secretary-General calls for permanent solution to timely payment of assessments towards United Nations regular budget and peace-keeping activities.

- On the final day of its general debate, the General Assembly hears Foreign Ministers of Zambia, Mauritius, Uganda and Sweden, as well as Deputy Prime Minister of Fiji and acting Chairman of delegation of Latvia. President of Panama, Prime Minister of Samoa, Foreign Ministers of Sierra Leone and Dominican Republic and Permanent Representatives of Grenada and Estonia also address Assembly.

- Legal Committee hears condemnation of terrorism, but ongoing disagreement on definitions.

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A United Nations spokesman told correspondents today that the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy on Yugoslavia, Cyrus Vance, was scheduled to go to Yugoslavia, tomorrow 11 October, for seven to 10 days.

Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar met this afternoon with Mr. Vance and Lord Carrington, mediator of European peace efforts in Yugoslavia. Mr. Vance is to report to the Secretary-General upon return from Yugoslavia. Meanwhile, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar will submit an interim report to the Security Council.

In a separate development, the Secretary-General was asked by correspondents this morning about the Israeli reconnaissance flights over northwest Iraq, and whether it would endanger the safety of United Nations inspectors in the area. The Secretary-General said that juridically, it was a violation of the airspace of a sovereign country, but that the question had not been raised at the United Nations.

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Israel has rejected complaints by Iraq that it had violated the sovereignty of Iraq, saying that the reconnaissance flights had been undertaken for security reasons.

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Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar this morning presented his budget proposals for 1992-1993 to the General Assembly's Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary).

Speaking in his capacity as Chief Administrative Officer of the United Nations, the Secretary-General said the Organization was again facing a serious financial crisis. Unpaid assessments to the regular budget currently totalled $723 million, which is over three quarters of the $962.7 million due for 1991. The Secretary-General reported a recent improvement in the situation, however, as 15 Member States have paid some $195 million since 1 October 1991. He said cash requirements are covered until close to the end of November. He stressed that a "permanent solution to the timely payment of assessments both towards the regular budget and peace-keeping activities" must be found.

Yesterday a United Nations spokesman said the Organization had received two checks this week from the United States totalling some $187 million towards the regular budget.

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The General Assembly today concluded its general debate, which began on 23 September. Opening the last day of debate this morning, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Zambia, Wilfred C. Wonani, addressed what he termed "the twin problems of development and the environment". He emphasized that cooperation in that area was necessary.

The international community must not settle for the lowest common denominator, namely, preserving the world's forests without initiating changes in the unsustainable patterns of production and consumption. The developing countries' legitimate questions on new and additional financial resources and non-commercial access to environmentally sound technologies must be answered. The international community must also commit itself to addressing the issues surrounding the external debt problem of developing countries.

In his statement, the Minister for External Affairs of Mauritius, Paul Raymond Berenger, reminded the Assembly that his country had proposed a south-west Indian Ocean and southern Africa nuclear-free zone treaty along the lines of the 1985 South Pacific Nuclear-Free Zone Treaty. While the declaration of nuclear-free zones in itself was no universal panacea to the ills that were engendered by nuclear weapons, he said, it was his firm belief that such momentum in the creation around the world of these zones, for example in the Middle East, in his region, in the Korean peninsula, was conducive to global security, that remained Mauritius ultimate goal.

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The Minister of Finance and Economic Planning of Fiji, Josevata Kamikamica, said that the major drive for the future economic development for Fiji and other Pacific island countries had to come from the seas and oceans. The tuna resources in his region, he said, were considered to be adequate to support the economic growth of the small islands, provided that they were economically utilized by the people themselves. However, the widespread use of driftnet fishing had caused overfishing beyond maximum sustainable years. He reiterated the support of his Government for a proposed moratorium in all regions of the world on a large scale driftnet fishing on the high seas by June 1992.

Mr. Kamikamica expressed the disappointment of his Government at the continued nuclear test in the South Pacific region by France, despite repeated calls for them to stop. He expressed support for the position of the countries of the South Pacific Forum which are calling for the testing of the nuclear weapons in the region to stop.

In his statement, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Uganda, Paul K. Ssemogerere, cited a recent address by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Chairman, President Babangida, who had called for the restructuring of the Security Council and for serious consideration to be given to the election of an African to the post of the United Nations Secretary-General.

Uganda recognized, he said, that the development of Africa was its own primary responsibility. He drew attention to the recent Treaty establishing the African Economic Community, which was adopted at the Abuja OAU Summit in June. The Treaty was designed to expand markets, create forward and backward linkages in African economies and hence act as motor for Africa's growth and development on a sustained basis. He called on the United Nations and the international community to be supportive of African integration efforts.

The Acting Representative of Latvia, Ojars Kalnins, pointed out that his country was joining the United Nations at a time when democracy and international equality seemed to be prevailing in the world. The events of August in the former communist Soviet Union had given rise to hopes that, from now on, East-West relations would no longer be a source of confrontation, but rather a vehicle for solving complex, global and regional problems.

He expressed the conviction that Latvia would be able to play an instrumental role in this problem-solving process. To achieve this goal, however, he said Latvia had to recover a fully independent statehood without delay, which included the removal, as soon as possible, of foreign troops which continued to illegally occupy Latvian soil. A just and fair settlement of this issue in the Baltic region, he noted, was of critical importance, not only for that area, but for the world.

In her statement, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, Margaretha Af Ugglas, said her country would like to participate wholeheartedly in building a new Europe and was ready to accept its share of the common European responsibility in accordance with the goals of the Paris Charter. The Community was living proof, she said, that purposeful cooperation between

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States could lead to new and dynamic ways of working together. Sweden's wish to become a member of the EEC was an expression of its desire to participate in the Community's endeavours to pave the way for new forms of cooperation within a Europe open to the outside world.

The Swedish Foreign Minister welcomed the three Baltic States to the United Nations, saying that her country had been deeply and actively committed to their struggle for freedom. Sweden would continue to give its support to the reconstruction of their societies, she said.

The President of Panama, Guillermo Endara Galimany, in his address to the Assembly expressed his unconditional support for any means that would help restore the democratic Government in Haiti, and said he would accept no concession that betrayed the will of the Haitian people. The international community "could not allow the freely-expressed will of the people to be flouted, not in Haiti, not in Panama, not anywhere in the world", he said.

The Permanent Representative of Grenada, Eugene M. Pursoo, told the Assembly that almost eight years had passed since his country had been liberated from "an ideology that was alien" to its political culture. Since then, he said, Grenada had focused on rebuilding its economy and restoring the democratic institutions enshrined in its constitution, and returning the country to full constitutional rule.

On the proposed political union of Dominica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada, Mr. Pursoo said his country hoped for bright prospects of improved welfare and security and aimed for the establishment of "an appropriate constitutional authority to provide for progressive and orderly governance".

In his statement, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sierra Leone, Ahmed R. Dumbuya, said many people now agreed that the African crisis was basically political in nature, with serious economic and social consequences. That was why Sierra Leone's President had set the scene last year for greater participation in politics by the people of Sierra Leone, as well as a greater democratization of the political process. After 13 years of one-party rule, a multiparty constitution was now in place and, at the next election scheduled to take place within a year, the people of Sierra Leone would have the opportunity of choosing those they would want to govern them. However, Mr. Dumbuya said, his country continued to be invaded by "rampaging bandits". This aggression had resulted in the loss of lives of thousands of people and the displacement of many more, thereby compounding the serious refugee problem Sierra Leone already has.

In his statement, the Prime Minister of Samoa, Tofilau Eti Alesana, said environmental matters were certainly a great concern to the Pacific. He reported that the South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme had been strengthened into a fully autonomous regional organization, with its headquarters in the Samoan capital Apia. In addition, he said, the South Pacific Nuclear-Free Zone Treaty expressed Samoa's strong opposition to nuclear weapons and their testing in the region. The immediate and pressing

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concern was the danger that these tests posed to the fragile environment in the Pacific.

The Convention for the Prohibition of Fishing with Long Driftnets in the South Pacific had also recently entered into force, Mr. Alesana said. Marine resources provided an essential part of the life support system of the island countries of the Pacific, and Samoa was pleased that the importance of their conservation was now being realized.

The Permanent Representative of Estonia, Ernst Jaakson, expressed his country's gratitude for the support received during its struggle for independence which helped Estonia to realize its self-determination. In particular, he thanked Iceland, saying that that country's small size "did not stand in the way of moral courage".

Estonia had experienced many problems in attaining independence, Mr. Jaakson said, and central to these was its traditional political and economic orientation, which involved strong ties to Western and Central Europe. He said an immediate priority for Estonia was the restoration of those ties and quick integration with the political and economic structures of Europe.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic, Juan Aristides Taveras-Guzman, rejected the charges levelled by Haitian President Aristide in his address to the Assembly, that the rights of Haitians in the Dominican Republic were being violated. He called the assertion "an unacceptable distortion of the facts".

What was at issue, he continued, was the right of the Dominican Republic to order the repatriation of aliens who had illegally entered and were residing in the Dominican Republic. He said hundreds of thousands of Haitians had come to stay in his country, and it was impossible for his Government to shoulder the tremendous burden of this immigration. He made an urgent appeal to the international community to come to the aid of Haiti. He also stated that the Dominican Republic had done "everything within its power" to seek a peaceful settlement of the problem.

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Delegates to the General Assembly's Sixth Committee, which is concerned with Legal Affairs, today roundly condemned terrorism as the Committee began its consideration of measures to prevent international terrorism and its underlying causes. Some delegates, however, said a proposed international conference intended to define terrorism and differentiate it from activities in pursuit of national liberation would not be practical.

Speaking on behalf of the 12 member States of the European Community, Robert Van Schaik of the Netherlands called for the release of hostages and abducted persons, including citizens of the European Community and United Nations staff members. Argentinian representative, Ernesto Martinez Gondra, said in Latin America terrorism continued to be linked to drug trafficking,

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the use of mercenaries and arms smuggling. He urged international cooperation to combat these activities, citing the recently-signed convention of plastic explosives as an example of such cooperation.

Syria, the first State to urge the convening of a conference, cited "deliberate confusion between terrorism and the struggle of peoples for national liberation". Other States advocated holding the conference while cautioning that the most dangerous forms of terrorism were those carried out by Governments and state military forces for the suppression of national liberation movements.

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# FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Security Council, in one meeting, approves plans submitted by Secretary-General and Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency for future ongoing monitoring and verification of Iraqi compliance with resolution 687 (1991); holds second meeting on situation in Cyprus.

- General Assembly strongly condemns attempted illegal replacement of constitutional President of Haiti as well as violation of human rights in that country; appeals to States Members of the United Nations to support efforts of the Organization of American States (OAS) to restore democracy.

- Under-Secretary-General James Jonah appeals to international community to meet $300 million shortfall for Horn of Africa emergency programme.

- General Assembly President urges continued international pressure to free South African political prisoners at fifteenth anniversary meeting held by Special Committee against Apartheid.

- Talks between the Government of El Salvador and representatives of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, with participation of Secretary-General's Personal Representative, to resume tomorrow in Mexico City.

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The Security Council this evening unanimously approved plans submitted by the Secretary-General and the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for future ongoing monitoring and verification of Iraqi compliance with resolution 687 (1991), which set the conditions for the cease-fire in the Persian Gulf war.

By the resolution, the Council decided that the Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament should continue to render assistance and cooperation to the Director General of the IAEA as may be necessary to coordinate activities under the plans.

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The Council demanded that Iraq meet unconditionally all its obligations under the plans. It further decided to encourage maximum assistance from all Member States to support the Special Commission and the Director General of the IAEA in carrying out their activities under the plans.

In addition, the Council requested its Sanctions Committee and the Director General of the IAEA to develop a mechanism for monitoring any future sales or supplies of weapons of mass destruction by other countries to Iraq. It also requested the Secretary-General and the Director General of the IAEA to report to the Council on the implementation of the plans when requested and at least every six months.

The Council was scheduled to proceed with a second meeting on the situation in Cyprus.

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The General Assembly today strongly condemned the attempted illegal replacement of Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and called on all nations to impose a trade embargo on Haiti, except for humanitarian aid.

It took that action by adopting by consensus a resolution put forward by Honduras on behalf of the Latin and Carribean Group. By the resolution, the Assembly demanded the immediate restoration of the legitimate Government of President Aristide and the full observance of human rights in Haiti. The Assembly also appealed to United Nations Member States to support proposals by the Organization of American States (OAS) to impose an economic embargo in Haiti with the exception of humanitarian goods.

Addressing the Assembly, the Permanent Representative of Honduras to the United Nations, Roberto Flores Bermudez, urged the international community to remain alert to the consequences of the events on the human rights situation in Haiti and the effects on neighbouring countries. He called on the international community to support the efforts of the Organization of American States (OAS) to reinstate President Aristide in office.

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The Security Council held consultations this afternoon to discuss a number of issues, including the situation in Cyprus and the mission to Yugoslavia by the Secretary-General's newly appointed Personal Envoy, Cyrus Vance.

Following consultations, the Council was scheduled to convene in two separate meetings on the situation in Cyprus and on the ongoing monitoring and verification of Iraq's compliance with resolution 687 (1991).

Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions, Regional Cooperation, Decolonization and Trusteeship, James O.C. Jonah, appealed today to the international community to meet the $300 million shortfall in pledges

for the Special Emergency Programme for the Horn of Africa, which aims to meet the immediate survival needs of over 22.5 million people in that region.

The Pledging Conference convened on 16 September by the Secretary-General produced $110 million in pledges for relief, food and health assistance which was less than 25 per cent of what is urgently required in the United Nations Interagency Consolidated Appeal for the five Horn countries -- the Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Djibouti and Kenya -- from 1 September to 31 December.

Mr. Jonah expressed concern over "donor distraction" away from the emergency in the Horn of Africa to problems in other parts of the world. Noting the "sheer human misery" he had seen during his recent visit to the Sudan and Ethiopia, Mr. Jonah called on the donor community to quickly provide the additional resources required to implement a coordinated United Nations and non-governmental organization emergency programme. The lives of many millions of civilians -- victims of civil strife, drought, inadequate food supply and a decimated health and social services infrastructure -- were dependent on further donor responses.

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The Special Committee against Apartheid today at Headquarters observed the Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners. The Day marks the anniversary of the adoption of a General Assembly resolution in 1963, calling on the South African regime to release unconditionally all persons imprisoned, interned or subjected to other restrictions for their opposition to apartheid. In 1976, the General Assembly had called for the annual observance of this Day.

At a meeting this morning held by the Special Committee, President of the General Assembly Samir S. Shihabi of Saudi Arabia said that the desired goal of freedom and equality for all had not yet been attained. He cited the Secretary-General in his second progress report on the implementation of the Declaration, that there had been delays in taking the requisite measures to create a climate necessary for negotiations "particularly with regard to political prisoners and exiles...". The release, so far, he said, of some political prisoners was certainly a positive step. However, several hundreds of political prisoners continued to languish in apartheid jails.

In a related development, the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations has expressed regret over today's meeting, saying the meeting was unwarranted since "all political prisoners with a legitimate claim to political status ... have been released".

In a letter to the President of the General Assembly, South African Ambassador V.R.W. Steward said South Africa had "gone out of its way to be fair" in its approach to the release of prisoners with the involvement of the African National Congress.

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A United Nations spokesman said today that direct talks between the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional would resume tomorrow, 12 October, in Mexico City, with the participation of the Secretary-General's Personal Representative for the Peace Process in Central America, Alvaro de Soto. The agenda for Saturday and further talks were contained in the document "Compressed Negotiations", available as a General Assembly and Security Council document.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/995
14 October 1991

# MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General's Personal Envoy meets with members of Yugoslav Government in Belgrade; holds meetings in two European capitals on the situation in Yugoslavia.

- Security Council endorses Secretary-General's intentions to resume discussions with two parties in Cyprus, as well as Greece and Turkey.

- Secretary-General welcomes awarding of Nobel Peace Prize to Aung San Suu Kyi of Myanmar.

- For year 2000, World Health Organization projects cumulative total of 30-40 million HIV infections in men, women and children, 90 per cent in developing countries.

- United Nations publishes report on child mortality in developing countries.

- International Journalists' Round Table at Headquarters discusses challenges to human rights at the close of the twentieth century.

- Expert meeting on implementation of United Nations norms in crime prevention and criminal justice begins in Vienna.

* * *

The Secretary-General's Personal Envoy on Yugoslavia, Cyrus Vance, met over the weekend in Belgrade with the Yugoslav Foreign Minister, Budimir Loncar.

The newly appointed Personal Envoy left New York on Friday to travel to Yugoslavia to gather information for a report to the Security Council on the situation in that country. The Council had asked the Secretary-General to consult with the Yugoslav Government and the European Economic Community (EEC) and submit a report to the Council.

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For information media—not an official record

While in Belgrade, Mr. Vance also met with the Prime Minister of Yugoslavia and other senior Government officials, before leaving for The Hague. This morning, as an observer, Mr. Vance attended the fifth plenary minister meeting of The Hague Conference, which was also attended by Lord Carrington, mediator of the European Community for Yugoslavia, as well as by the Foreign Minister of the Netherlands and ministers representing all parties in Yugoslavia. Mr. Vance was scheduled to meet in Bonn this evening with German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the current Chairman of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

Mr. Vance was expected to continue his mission in Yugoslavia this week.

In a separate development, the Secretary-General told correspondents this morning that negotiations on the release of hostages in Lebanon were continuing. In reply to questions as he entered the building, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar said he was in daily contact with his Personal Delegate, Giandomenico Picco, who is currently in Lebanon, and that he was hopeful for the release of another hostage.

* * *

The Security Council has endorsed the Secretary-General's intentions to resume discussions on Cyprus in early November in order to complete an outline for an overall agreement. The Secretary-General had proposed the convening of a high-level meeting with the participation of the two parties in Cyprus, as well as the Governments of Greece and Turkey.

Under a unanimous resolution on Friday, the 15 Council members had welcomed the proposal to convene such a high-level meeting chaired by the Secretary-General, saying that it represented an effective measure for concluding an overall framework agreement on Cyprus.

The leaders of the two communities in Cyprus, as well as the representatives of Greece and Turkey, were requested by the Council to cooperate fully with the Secretary-General and his representatives so that the high-level international meeting could be convened before the end of the year.

The Council also asked the Secretary-General to report to it in November as to whether sufficient progress had been made to convene the meeting, and, should conditions not be ripe, to convey his assessment of the situation.

* * *

The Secretary-General today welcomed the awarding of the Nobel Prize for Peace to Aung San Suu Kyi of Myanmar, saying that she was "a remarkable leader" who had shown great courage and "a deep attachment to non-violence and democracy".

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He further expressed hope that the recognition of her contribution by the international community would, among other things, lead to her earliest release from house arrest and enable her family to visit her without hinderance.

* * *

The General Assembly's Second Committee (Economic and Financial) today heard a statement by a representative of the World Health Organization (WHO), Ingar Bruggemann, who cited WHO projections that a total of 30 to 40 million people would be infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) by the year 2000, with 90 per cent of all cases in the developing countries.

"The economic and social impact of this disease, which kills people in their most productive years, will be devastating", she said, adding that the impact on young and middle-aged adults, who comprise the educated and trained elite in most countries, could lead to economic, social and even political devastation.

Mrs. Bruggemann spoke as the Committee began its discussion of the report of the Economic and Social Council on its second regular session of 1991.

The Committee was also addressed by Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs, Rafeeuddin Ahmed, who said that since the holding of the Council's high-level meeting in July on the impact of changes in East-West relations on the world economy, forecasts had indicated that the decline in economic activity in Eastern Europe was even more severe than originally anticipated. Those economies would need a great deal of technical and financial assistance, he said, but it should not be at the expense of the developing countries.

* * *

Since the 1950s, developing countries have shown a general decline in childhood mortality. However, according to a recently published United Nations report, disparities in the levels of childhood mortality persist, not only among countries but also among social and economic groups within countries.

The report, "Child Mortality in Developing Countries", is based on a study carried out by the United Nations Population Division and covers countries from various less developed regions including Africa, Latin America, Honduras and urban Paraguay and Asia.

Results of the study underscore the critical role of maternal education in determining the mortality risks of children. Paternal education also plays an increasingly large role in determining child survival, though less salient than that of maternal education. The report also showed that children of illiterate mothers were especially at risk.

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Press Release DH/995
14 October 1991

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Challenges to human rights at the close of the twentieth century are the focus of an International Journalists' Round Table which opened today at United Nations Headquarters.

Sixteen journalists from 13 countries have been invited to discuss such issues as freedom of the press, human rights and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), as well as social justice and economic disparities. The aim of the Round Table is to strenghten the journalists' information base on United Nations activities in the field of human rights.

The meeting is sponsored by the United Nations Communications and Project Management Division (CPMD).

* * *

A meeting of 35 experts to review and assess the progress achieved in standard-setting and implementation of crime prevention techniques and ways to improve implementation at the national level, began today in Vienna.

Convened by the Secretary-General in response to a resolution adopted by the 1990 Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders in Havana, the meeting will also examine arrangements for the effective monitoring of implementation of United Nations norms and guidelines in the field of criminal justice.

The meeting is financed by the Home Office of the United Kingdom, and is being organized by that office, in cooperation with the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the United Nations Office at Vienna.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/996
15 October 1991

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar says he remains hopeful that situation in Yugoslavia will be peacefully resolved.

- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees calls on international community to make 1992 "year for voluntary repatriation".

- World Food Day, to be observed tomorrow, will focus this year on "trees for life".

- Italy contributes $31.6 million to United Nations Drug Control Programme.

- Draft resolution on security measures for small States introduced in Special Political Committee.

- Calls for greater transparency in international arms transfers and a speedy completion of chemical weapons Treaty in 1992 are heard in the Political and Security Committee.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar said today that he is still hopeful that a peaceful solution will be found to the situation in Yugoslavia. The Secretary-General made the remarks as he entered United Nations Headquarters this morning, in response to questions from reporters.

Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar said negotiations were continuing with the full involvement of the European Economic Community, adding that he hoped for coordinated effort between the Soviet Union and the European Economic Community (EEC) to bring about a settlement.

Meanwhile, a United Nations Spokesman said today that former United States Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, who is serving as the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy on Yugoslavia, met last night in Bonn with German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, who is also Chairman of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), to discuss the

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For information media—not an official record

situation in Yugoslavia. Mr. Vance is gathering information for a report to the Security Council. He is expected to arrive in Belgrade today to continue his mission, the Spokesman said.

* * *

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Mrs. Sadako Ogata, told a Round Table of International Journalists at United Nations Headquarters this morning that the question of population movement was probably the most important component in the concept of a new world order.

Opening the roundtable's debate on Peace, International Humanitarian Law and Humanitarian Issues, she called on the international community to make the year 1992 "the year for voluntary repatriation", as the prospects in that area were "brighter than ever". She cited the recent agreement between the UNHCR and the South African Government on the repatriation of political refugees, and added that a UNHCR mission would go to that area by the end of the month to start the process.

Speaking about the current population of 17 million refugees, displaced persons and asylum seekers around the world, she said their number was on the rise. The causes for the rise were complex, but main events such as wars, persecutions, conflicts, and particularly poverty, were forcing millions, often in the poorest parts of the world, to cross their countries' borders. She also cited countries' mismanagement of their economies, as in Albania, as motivation for population movements.

* * *

Italy has contributed some $31.6 million to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to enhance the Programme's technical cooperation activities in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America.

Italy's contribution, announced on 10 October, confirms the priority given by the Italian Government to international action, under the aegis of the Drug Control Programme, against the scourge of illicit drug trafficking and abuse. Over the past few years, Italy has become the main donor country to United Nations drug control activities.

* * *

World Food Day, with the theme this year: "Trees for Life", will be observed tomorrow, Wednesday 16 October, by some 140 nations with ceremonies recognizing the vital role that trees play in every part of the globe.

In a statement to mark the occasion, FAO Director-General Edouard Saouma said trees were essential to human life. "Since the beginning of history", he said, "they have provided food, shade, shelter, fuel, transport, medicine and work. They conserve soil and water and counter global warming". He added that "now, with the world's population expected to reach 8 billion by the year

(more)

2025, it is all the more vital that we recognize the role of trees by dedicating ourselves to fighting deforestation."

The Day will be observed at United Nations Headquarters on Friday, 18 October in the Economic and Social Chamber.

World Food Day, established by FAO's biennial conference in 1979, has been observed annually since 1981, on 16 October, the anniversary of the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Its purpose is to increase awareness of the problems of hunger, malnutrition and poverty and to stimulate action to feed the world.

* * *

A draft resolution introduced this morning in the Special Political Committee would have the General Assembly urge the Secretary-General to continue to monitor the security situation of small States and to consider bringing any threats to the Security Council. The 50-Power text, introduced by the representative of the Maldives, would also have the Assembly request that the Secretary-General continue his consultations on the matter with Council members and other interested Governments.

The Special Political Committee is to meet again on Thursday, 17 October, to take action on the draft resolution.

* * *

The General Assembly's Political and Security Committee has begun its debate on disarmament issues. Speakers have called for increased transparency in the transfer of conventional weapons and military technology, and a speedy conclusion to the negotiations on an international convention that would prohibit the use, manufacture and stockpiling of chemical weapons. Other topics discussed were nuclear non-proliferation and a comprehensive nuclear test ban.

In his opening statement yesterday, the Chairman of the Committee, Robert Mroziewicz (Poland), welcomed the recent disarmament initiatives of Presidents Bush and Gorbachev. However, those by themselves were not enough, he said. Disarmament should become a truly universal process, incorporating the nuclear arms of other States as well.

Today the representative of Venezuela, in his capacity as President of the Conference on Disarmament, said the process of negotiations under way on a draft convention banning chemical weapons had been given an impetus by the announcement of the United States, earlier this spring, of its intention to discontinue the use of chemical weapons under any circumstance and to destroy its stocks of chemical weapons over the next 10 years. Although obstacles still existed on such issues as verification, he hoped the convention would be ready and open for signature by 1992.

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Before today's debate, the Committee was addressed by Yasushi Akashi, Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs. He said the international community had to espouse a multi-dimensional approach to peace and security in which the military aspect would not dominate but would be considered in relation to other priorities, such as development, welfare, environment and the protection of human rights.

Before beginning substantive debate yesterday, the Committee paid tribute to the memory of Ambassador Alfonso Garcia Robles of Mexico, who died recently. Known as the "Father of Disarmament", he was the architect of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, the first Treaty to establish a nuclear-weapons-free zone in a populated region of the world. He was also the recipient of the 1982 Nobel Peace Prize.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/997
16 October 1991

# W E D N E S D A Y  H I G H L I G H T S

- Security Council votes unanimously to establish, under its authority, United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC), immediately after signing of agreements for comprehensive political settlement; calls on all Cambodian parties to cooperate fully with UNAMIC.

- Secretary-General expresses deep concern over reports of unauthorized Cambodian repatriation plan.

- Secretary-General denies categorically Iraqi allegations that Israel uses United Nations helicopters "as a sort of shield" to fly over Iraqi territory.

- General Assembly elects five non-permanent members of Security Council; acts on Comorian Island of Mayotte; grants observer status to Caribbean Community.

- International Journalists' Round Table on Human Rights and United Nations debate freedom of the press and safety of journalists.

- Iraq-Kuwait Border Commission reports on surveying and mapping of border area between the two countries.

* * *

The Security Council this afternoon voted unanimously to establish, under its authority, a United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC) immediately after the signing of the agreements for a comprehensive political settlement of the conflict in that country and in accordance with the report of the Secretary-General, with members of the mission to be sent immediately after the signing.

In its resolution, the Council called on the Supreme National Council and the Cambodian parties to cooperate fully with UNAMIC and with the preparations for the implementation of the agreements set out in the agreements for a comprehensive political settlement.

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For information media—not an official record

The Council further welcomed the proposal of the co-chairman of the Paris Conference on Cambodia to reconvene the conference at an early date at ministerial level to sign the agreements. It requested the Secretary-General to report to the Council by 15 November on the implementation of the resolution, and to keep the Council fully informed of further developments.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar has expressed deep concern over reports indicating the existence of separate plans for the repatriation of Cambodian displaced persons which are not consistent with the draft agreements reached previously on a comprehensive political settlement of the conflict in that country.

The Secretary-General said in a statement made through his Spokesman today that the plans furthermore appeared to be in direct contradiction with the guidelines and principles for repatriation that are an integral part of the draft agreements. The existence of such plans raised a doubt about the commitment of the parties concerned to the draft agreements, scheduled to be signed on 23 October in Paris, he said.

He appealed to Prince Norodom Sihanouk in his capacity as President of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia to urge the parties concerned not to implement any unauthorized plans for the repatriation of Cambodian displaced persons, and to secure the commitment of the parties concerned not to organize any repatriation outside the framework of the draft agreements. Those agreements represented the culmination of a long effort at bringing about a peaceful settlement of this "difficult conflict". He urged all parties to fully respect its provisions in the letter and the spirit.

The Secretary-General has designated the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) as lead Agency to carry out the repatriation.

* * *

The Secretary-General has categorically denied the allegation made by Iraq that Israel was allowing its air planes to use United Nations helicopters as "a sort of shield" to fly over Iraqi territory. In a brief comment to correspondents this morning upon entering the building, he called the allegation "totally false and unjustified".

Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar was scheduled to meet later today with the Chairman of the United Nations Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament, Rolf Ekeus.

Commenting on the hostage situation in Lebanon, the Secretary-General said that "things are moving ahead". When asked about reports indicating that the groups holding the hostages had asked for guarantees, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar replied that the matter was extremely sensitive and that he preferred to refrain from any comment that could spoil the chances of getting "good results".

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The General Assembly this morning elected Cape Verde, Morocco, Japan, Hungary and Venezuela as five non-permanent members of the Security Council for a two-year term beginning on 1 January 1992. The five countries, elected by secret ballot, will replace Côte D'Ivoire, Cuba, Romania, Yemen and Zaire whose terms expire on 31 December this year.

In another action, the Assembly reaffirmed the sovereignty of Comoros over the island of Mayotte and urged France to accelerate negotiations to return Mayotte to Comoros. The resolution was adopted by a recorded vote of 115 in favour, to 1 against (France) with 34 abstentions.

Addressing the Assembly before the vote on the sovereignty of Comoros, the representative of Gabon regretted that the problem had not yet been resolved despite numerous resolutions of the Assembly. In its capacity as President of the Ad Hoc Committee, he said, Gabon was appealing to the French Government to speed up negotiations with the Comorian Government for the return of Mayotte to Comoros.

Also this morning, acting without a vote on a resolution introduced by the representative of Barbados, the Assembly granted observer status to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

The President of the Assembly, Samir S. Shihabi of Saudi Arabia, announced that the item on the United States economic embargo of Cuba would be taken up by the Assembly on Monday, 4 November.

* * *

Fourteen journalists had been killed in Yugoslavia since June, the highest death rate for journalists in the line of duty since 1981, according to Anne Nelson, Executive Director of the Committee to Protect Journalists.

Speaking to panelists in the International Journalists' Round Table on Human Rights and the United Nations, who were debating the freedom of the press and safety of journalists this morning, Ms. Nelson said that despite changes in the world, the nature of abuse against journalists had not changed. She called the situation in Yugoslavia "the great untold story of the year" and cited incidents where journalists had been victims of the resurgence in ethnic fighting in that country, including intentional attacks on clearly marked press vehicles and capture by members of the fighting parties in Croatia and Serbia.

Also addressing the panel was Professor Nicholas Daniloff of Northeastern University School of Journalism in Boston, who called for a United Nations sponsored annual review of the safety of journalists around the world. Professor Daniloff also proposed the establishment of a "Register of

(more)

Incidents" at the United Nations. Noting that journalist Terry Anderson was st ill in captivity in Lebanon, he thanked the Secretary-General for his work for the release of all the hostages.

* * *

The Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission has reviewed and approved the final work plan for the surveying and mapping of the border area between the two countries.

The first stage of control surveying began on 1 October with the assistance of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM). A specially outfitted aircraft for aerial photography has also arrived in Kuwait from Sweden and will shortly commence this stage of the operation. It is expected that the maps for the actual demarcation of the boundary will be ready at the end of February 1992.

The Commission held its fourth session at United Nations Headquarters from 7 to 15 October, during which it prepared its first report on its work as well as an estimated budget to be submitted to the Secretary-General.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/998
17 October 1991

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- The five Permanent Members of the Security Council and the two Co-Chairmen of the Paris Conference on Cambodia declare that they will take coordinated action in support of Secretary-General's efforts to prevent unauthorized repatriation of Cambodian refugees.

- Secretary-General appeals to Governments concerned in Middle East region to cooperate with his efforts to free detainees and hostages in Lebanon.

- Secretary-General's Personal Representative for Central America says negociations between Government of El Salvador and FMLN are "moving along in positive and constructive fashion", despite "considerable complexity" of pending issues.

- Director-General of Vienna Office says social issues must be main theme of 1990s to avoid conflicts within countries as well as between North and South.

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The five Permanent Members of the Security Council and the two Co-Chairmen of the Paris Conference on Cambodia have declared that they would take coordinated action in support of the Secretary-General's efforts to prevent "forced repatriation" of Cambodian refugees on the Thai border.

The Secretary General's Spokesman said today that the Secretary-General's Special Representative on South-East Asia, Rafeeuddin Ahmed, had met yesterday with the representatives of the five Permanent Council Members and the two Co-Chairmen to inform them about the Secretary-General's concern regarding the unauthorized plan.

The Secretary-General had received information indicating that such a plan existed outside the framework of the agreement on a comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodian conflict, which is to be signed in Paris on 23 October.

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For information media—not an official record

Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar had appealed to Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the President of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, to urge the parties concerned not to implement any unauthorized plans for the repatriation of refugees.

In a letter of reply of 15 October, Prince Sihanouk stated that he had sent a special message to the leadership of the parties of Democratic Kampuchea asking then not to proceed with any forced repatriation. He had further asked them to return to their camps any refugees that may have been repatriated forcibly, as well as to comply with the voluntary repatriation programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Prince Sihanouk stated that he had asked the parties to attend a meeting at his residence in Paris on Monday, 21 October, which would also be attended by UNHCR representatives. He reaffirmed his support for the proposals made on the matter of refugees by the UNHCR and the Secretary-General.

* * *

The Secretary-General said today through his Spokesman that his Personal Delegate, Giandomenico Picco, who was currently in Damascus, Syria, had informed him this morning that negotiations on his behalf on the release of hostages and detainees held in Lebanon were continuing and that they were "moving ahead".

Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar appealed to all Governments concerned in the region to cooperate with his efforts at this particular juncture.

* * *

Negotiations are continuing in Mexico City between the Government of El Salvador and the representatives of the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) on steps towards a final accord on settlement of the 11-year conflict in that country.

Commenting on the outcome of the talks yesterday, 16 October, in Mexico City, the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General for Central America, Alvaro de Soto, said negotiations were moving along in a "positive, constructive and business-like fashion". It was clear, in his opinion, that both sides wanted to reach an agreement as "rapidly as possible", but that the remaining pending issues were of "considerable complexity".

* * *

Social issues should be one of the major, if not the main theme of the 1990s, if the twenty-first century was not to find itself wracked by internecine conflicts within countries and between North and South.

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This was stated yesterday by the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna and Head of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, Margaret J. Anstee, in an address in the General Assembly's Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural).

She went on to say that everywhere, developing countries, as well as those in Eastern and Central Europe, were being sent the message that espousal of free market and private enterprise was the way out of poverty and underdevelopment.

However, she said, there were many problems to which the market provided no socially acceptable solutions. Experience at the United Nations Vienna Office had shown that the market, when left to its own devices, did not respond to many needs, national as well as international. "Indeed, it all too often sends social issues to the wall", she said.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/999
18 October 1991

F R I D A Y  H I G H L I G H T S

- Secretary-General to meet with his Special Envoy on Yugoslavia, Saturday, 19 October, at Headquarters.

- Secretary-General proposes to reduce cost of United Nations peace-keeping Force in Cyprus by asking Government with highest claims of reimbursement to level with other comparable contributor.

- Secretary-General calls on captors of Chargé d'affaires of Romania, kidnapped in New Delhi on 9 October, to release him "immediately and unharmed".

- Secretary-General, at World Food Day ceremony, says international community must act without delay to eliminate hunger and malnutrition.

- Special Political Committee approves draft urging Secretary-General to continue monitoring security situation of small States.

* * *

A United Nations spokesman announced today that the Secretary-General was scheduled to meet tomorrow, 19 October, with Cyrus Vance, his Special Envoy on Yugoslavia, who would return tonight from a ten-day visit to Europe. Mr. Vance has held a number of meetings with European Government representatives, including the Yugoslav Foreign Minister, and has attended the Hague Peace Conference, chaired by Lord Carrington.

The spokesman said the Secretary-General and Mr. Vance would hold a press conference following their meeting.

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The Secretary-General has proposed to alleviate what has been described as "the chronic and ever-deepening financial crisis" of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP).

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For information media—not an official record

In a report to the Security Council of 15 October, the Secretary-General said that the only remaining possibility for a reduction of UNFICYP's costs, while keeping the present structure and composition of the Force, was to ask the Government with the highest current rate of claims to reduce its requests for reimbursement to the level of the other comparable contributor.

The Government concerned, the report says, has considered the idea and has stated that it would be "prepared to contribute positively to finding a solution" on the conditions that the Security Council decides to move to assessed contributions; that the accumulated arrears to Member States continue to be paid in accordance with existing practice, it being understood that arreas would only be paid from future voluntary contributions received for this purpose; and that its undertaking to stay in UNFICYP on these new terms would not commit it beyond 1 January 1993.

According to the report, three other Governments have also stated that they would accept a similarly reduced rate of reimbursement, provided that it was linked to the adaptation of assessed contributions.

The Secretary-General had repeatedly expressed concern about the grave financial situation of UNFICYP and had stated that it was "most unfair" that troop-contributing countries, who already bear a considerable burden as a result of their participation in the Force, should have to absorb such a disproportionate share of the costs of UNFICYP.

Finally, the Secretary-General reiterated his long-standing recommendations that the Council approve the funding of the costs of UNFICYP from next January 1st through assessed contributions on the peace-keeping scale.

* * *

The Secretary-General has expressed "deep concern" over the threats issued by the captors of the Chargé d'affaires of Romania, Mr. Livio Radu, who was kidnapped ir New Delhi on 9 October 1991.

The Secretary-General said today through his Spokesman that he deplored violence and human suffering of any kind, and believed that no aim could be furthered by the taking of innocent hostages. Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar called on the captors to release Mr. Radu, who suffers from poor health, "immediately and unharmed".

* * *

The Secretary-General said today, at a ceremony to mark World Food Day, that hundreds of millions of men, women and children were still living in extreme poverty, deprived of human dignity. In addition, he said, one billion people were suffering from some form of food insecurity and malnutrition.

He called on the international community to act without further delay to adapt policies to eliminate starvation, mortality among children, and the

(more)

elimination of major nutritional diseases. Unless special action was taken, the decade of the 1990s might bring a substantial increase in the number of hungry and malnourished people, especially on the African continent.

The President of the General Assembly, Samir S. Shihabi of Saudi Arabia, also making a statement on the occasion of World Food Day, said his own country had made great efforts to grow plants in the heart of the desert. He commended the important role played by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) everywhere in the world, to turn the vast deserts into fertile land, yielding cereals and food crops.

The theme of the World Food Day this year is "Trees for Life". The Day has been observed annually by the FAO since 1981.

* * *

The General Assembly's Special Political Committee has approved a draft which would urge the Secretary-General to continue to monitor the security situation of small States. By the text, the Secretary-General would also consider bringing any threats to small States' security to the attention of the Security Council.

The Committee is currently discussing small States' particular vulnerability to external threats and acts of interference in their internal affairs.

By other terms of the 64-Power text, the Assembly would appeal to regional and international organizations to provide security assistance to small States, at their request. It would also stress the importance of respect for such Charter principles as sovereign equality, territorial integrity, non-interference in a country's internal affairs and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1000
21 October 1991

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

◆ Director General of International Atomic Energy Agency presents to General Assembly annual report for 1990, saying IAEA's work in Iraq proved "to be much larger, complex and dramatic than first expected".

◆ Secretary-General's Personal Representative expresses "deep concern" over situation in Yugoslavia; says Security Council's arms embargo "is not working".

◆ Secretary-General welcomes Middle East Peace Conference scheduled for 30 October in Madrid.

◆ Secretary-General holds informal consultations with Governments concerned in Afghanistan situation.

◆ Executive Director of United Nations Environment Programme launches global strategy for sustainable development called "Caring for the Earth".

◆ Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator reports 300 dead and 2000 injured by earthquake in India.

◆ "Group of 77" introduces two draft resolutions in Economic and Financial Committee on economic stabilization programmes in developing countries and on industrial development cooperation.

* * *

The tasks laid upon the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) by the Security Council's resolutions on Iraq "proved to be much larger, complex and dramatic than first expected", according to IAEA Director General Hans Blix who presented the Agency's annual report for 1990 to the General Assembly this afternoon.

Mr. Blix said in his statement that although Iraq was a party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and had pledged under that Treaty not to develop or acquire any nuclear weapons, the country had been found not to have respected these pledges. The IAEA Board of Governors had twice declared Iraq in

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For information media—not an official record

non-compliance with its safeguards obligations and the General Conference of the IAEA last month had condemned Iraq's non-compliance with its nuclear non-proliferation obligations.

The seven inspection missions sent so far by the IAEA to Iraq, Mr. Blix said, had disclosed vast undeclared and unknown programmes in the billion dollar range for the enrichment of uranium as well as documentary evidence of an advanced nuclear weapons development programme. Although Iraq had asserted that no political decision had been taken to make a nuclear bomb, the scientific and technical programme for weapons development had been confirmed, he said.

Speaking about what lessons could be learned from IAEA's inspections in Iraq, Mr. Blix cited the "crucial importance of information" provided by other Member States, through the Special Commission, designating suspected sites for inspection. He also cited the importance of inspectors' unimpeded access to those sites, as well as the value of powerful support when the right to access was not respected.

The General Assembly will continue its debate of the IAEA's annual report tomorrow.

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The situation in Yugoslavia was worsening and time was "running out rapidly", according to the Secretary-General's Personal Representative for Yugoslavia, former United States Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, who has just returned from a ten-day fact-finding mission to Belgrade and other European cities.

Mr. Vance met with Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar over the weekend to inform him of his visit to Europe, during which he has met with Yugoslav Government representatives and European leaders.

At a press conference on Saturday, Mr. Vance told correspondents that he had returned from his mission more deeply concerned than when he left. He said that during his trip fighting had escalated, although press reports had announced the beginning of a cease-fire at noon Saturday -- the tenth such cease-fire in Yugoslavia in the past three months.

There was no longer any effective central Government in Yugoslavia, Mr. Vance said. The economic situation continued to worsen and human suffering was increasing, as reflected in the rapidly growing number of refugees, displaced persons and medical casualties.

Asked by correspondents if he knew the source of arms flowing into Yugoslavia, Mr. Vance replied that he did not know precisely; he was still collecting information on that matter. He said it was clear that the Security Council's arms embargo was not working and that arms were flowing into the area from many different directions.

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Also present at the press conference, Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar said he was preparing a report containing his recommendations to the Security Council. Asked if Mr. Vance would return to Yugoslavia, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar replied that his Personal Envoy had the confidence of all the parties he had met. "That is extremely important, not only for us, but for Yugoslavia", he said. Mr. Vance would be involved as long as long as the problem was there, and as long as the United Nations could be of any help, the Secretary-General said.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar has welcomed the convening of the Middle East peace conference scheduled to begin on 30 October in Madrid.

Speaking to correspondents on Saturday, the Secretary-General called the diplomatic work done over the months by United States Secretary of State James A. Baker III "a remarkable success".

The Secretary-General said he would contribute to the peace efforts by sending his Special Representative on the Middle East, Eduard Brunner, to Madrid as an observer, together with a small team, in order to be present during the opening session of the Conference.

* * *

A United Nations spokeswoman announced today that the Secretary-General had been holding informal consultations with Governments concerned in the Afghanistan situation, with a view to accelerate the process for a political settlement and prior to the General Assembly's consideration of the item.

The spokeswoman said Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar had exchanged views on Friday, 18 October, with representatives of Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, the Soviet Union and the United States. The Secretary-General's Personal Representative on Afghanistan, Benon Sevan, left on Sunday for the region.

* * *

A global strategy for sustainable development entitled "Caring for the Earth" was launched today at United Nations Headquarters by Mostafa K. Tolba, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Released simultaneously in London, Moscow, Tokyo, Sydney and 55 other cities around the world, the 228-page strategy prepared by UNEP lists 130 things that communities can do to safeguard or improve their environments, while raising their quality of life.

In a statement to mark the occasion, Dr. Tolba said "we must, by improving the standard of living in developing countries, put an end to the poverty and desperation that are forcing millions of men and women to degrade or destroy their own fertile lands and forests and coastal areas".

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The new international blueprint calls on the industrialized countries to lower their high levels of consumption and pollution, and to reduce the debt of lower-income countries.

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The Geneva-based Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO) has reported a major earthquake yesterday in India in a mountainous area, approximately 250 kilometres north-east of New Delhi.

The Agency said the death toll was over 300, with 2000 people injured. Early reports indicated that worst damage was inflicted in Uttarkashi and Tehri districts, where remote villages could not be reached due to extensive damage to the infrastructure. Local relief efforts, including the deployment of military resources and dispatch of relief material, was hampered by inaccessibility of the affected area, the UNDRO said.

* * *

The General Assembly's Second Committee (Economical and Financial) this morning heard an introduction by the "Group of 77" developing countries of two draft resolutions on economic stabilization programmes in developing countries and on industrial development cooperation, respectively. The Committee is currently debating the question of development and international economic cooperation.

By one draft, on economic stabilization programmes in developing countries, sponsored by Ghana, the Assembly would request the Secretary-General to submit to it at its next session a comprehensive and analytical report containing an evaluation of the extent to which the efforts made by developing countries to stabilize their economies were being supported by the current international economic environment.

By the second text, on industrial development cooperation with developing countries, also sponsored by Ghana, the Assembly would recognize the need for a study on the structure of world industrialization from the long-term perspective.

In a separate development, the Economic and Financial Committee also considered this morning the role of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in promoting enterpreneurship, including its establishment of a new division for private sector development.

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# United Nations

## Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1001
22 October 1991

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General welcomes release in Beirut of American hostage Jesse Turner and of 15 Lebanese detainees held by Israel.

- Secretary-General arrives in Paris to attend special meeting of UNESCO; will witness signing of Cambodian Accords tomorrow, 23 October.

- General Assembly concludes debate on Atomic Energy Agency report; postpones action on draft text to consider Iraqi amendment.

- Secretary-General says durable peace in Afghanistan can only be achieved through political settlement.

- Executive Director of United Nations Environment Programme tells press conference that ozone depletion is worsening.

- "Significant progress" in talks on armed forces between Government of El Salvador and FMLN; negotiations to resume on 3 November.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar welcomed last night the release in Beirut of Jesse Turner, an American Professor who had been held hostage in Lebanon for almost five years, and of 15 Lebanese detainees released by Israeli authorities.

The Secretary-General was informed of the releases by his Delegate, Giandomenico Picco, who is currently in the Middle East.

Upon arrival in Paris today, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar told correspondents that he would press on with his efforts to obtain the freedom of all hostages and detainees in the Middle East and that he hoped that the process could be concluded before the end of the year.

In a statement last night, the Secretary-General had thanked "the groups in Lebanon" for their cooperation which had helped to bring about the releases. He also expressed appreciation for the assistance he had received

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from Governments, especially Iran, Libya and Syria. He said he was also grateful to the Government of Israel for the release of the 15 Lebanese detainees.

* * *

The Secretary-General arrived today in Paris where he is scheduled to attend this evening a special meeting of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) General Conference organized as a tribute to him.

This afternoon, the Secretary-General was to have met with Foreign Minister of Tunisia Habib Ben Yahia for a review of the situation in the Middle East.

Tomorrow, 23 October, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar will witness the signing of the Cambodia accords, and will sign the Final Act of the Paris Conference, which has been re-called into session by its Co-Chairmen, the Foreign Minister of France, Roland Dumas, and the Foreign Minister of Indonesia, Ali Alatas. The Secretary-General will also meet with the Foreign Ministers of the five permanent members of the Security Council while in Paris for the signing ceremonies.

* * *

The General Assembly this morning concluded debate on the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), but action on a draft resolution concerning the Agency's report was postponed until tomorrow.

An operative paragraph of the draft resolution, which was introduced yesterday, would have the Assembly note with appreciation the statements and actions of the Agency concerning Iraq's non-compliance with its non-proliferation obligations, and commend the efforts made in implementing Security Council resolutions 687 (1991) and 707 (1991), which called on IAEA to investigate Iraq's nuclear weapons programme.

This morning, Iraq circulated an amendment to the text, by which the Assembly would replace operative paragraph 4 with one that would express "deep concern at Israel's non-compliance with Security Council resolution 487 (1981)". That resolution condemned Israel's attack on an Iraqi nuclear reactor and had called on Israel to place its nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards.

The Assembly was scheduled to take up this afternoon the report of the Secretary-General on the return of cultural property, and elect 29 members of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

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The Secretary-General has reiterated his call for a negotiated settlement to the 13-year long conflict in Afghanistan, stating that there "is no alternative to a political solution".

In a report to the Security Council of 17 October, the Secretary-General said the situation in Afghanistan had reached a "critical stage", but that a "unique opportunity" existed to resolve the question. Durable peace in Afghanistan could only be reached through a political settlement, he said.

The joint decision by the Soviet Union and the United States in January to end weapons deliveries to all Afghan sides should give further impetus to efforts to achieve a political solution, he said. He urged all other Governments concerned to take "urgently similar decisions" and halt not only the supply of arms, but also stop financing the purchase of arms.

Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar also called for an urgent solution to the problem of Afghan political prisoners as well as prisoners of war -- Soviet citizens and others -- who were still in captivity. He appealed to the Afghan Government as well as to the resistance movement to release all prisoners, saying that such a step was essential for the achievement of a comprehensive political settlement.

* * *

The Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, Dr. Mostafa K. Tolba, told a press conference at Headquarters today that the situation of ozone depletion was worsening.

Reporting the new findings of an intergovernmental panel of 80 scientists from 25 countries, Director of Process Studies at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Dr. Bob Watson, said that the rate of decrease in the ozone layer was increasing in both Northern and Southern hemispheres, and called the situation "disturbing". Ozone depletion in Antarctica had expanded from a winter occurrence into other seasons, including summer and spring, which meant that a larger percentage of the world would now be exposed to ultra-violet radiation.

Dr. Watson went on to say that new findings showed that the depletion was still largely due to human activity. Ozone depletion had occurred at a rate of 3 per cent in the last decade over Europe and North America and an additional ozone loss of 3 per cent was expected before the end of the century. This could lead to significant changes in climate and give rise to damaged crops and increased cases of skin cancer.

* * *

A United Nations spokeswoman announced today that direct talks in Mexico City between the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN) had recessed late last night, following 10 days of negotiations held "in a cordial and constructive atmosphere".

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"Significant progress" was registered on the issue of armed forces, but important questions remained, which would be addressed when talks resume on 3 November. An initial exploration of a conceptual character on cease-fire arrangements in light of the New York agreement also took place, the spokeswoman said.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1002
23 October 1991

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- United Nations would set up "biggest and most complex" operation in its history under Paris Accords on Cambodia, Secretary-General states.

- Security Council holds informal consultations to hear report by Chairman of Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament.

- In United Nations Day message, to be celebrated tomorrow, Secretary-General calls for recently gained freedoms to be devoted to human welfare goals; in a separate message, Assembly President Samir S. Shihabi says Organization must be strengthened to respond to world's increasing demands.

- Under-Secretary-General for Public Information tells Special Political Committee of increasing world-wide demand for DPI products and services due to new climate of cooperation in international affairs.

- Speakers in Legal Committee state that recent Gulf conflict demonstrate need for comprehensive legal regime to protect environment in wartime.

- General Assembly calls for strengthened action to protect cultural property.

- Algeria to contribute $10 million to help implement referendum in Western Sahara.

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"The texts submitted to our Conference assign the United Nations a major, and, in certain respects, unprecedented role. If, as expected, the Security Council confirms the Paris Accords, the Organization will be responsible for ensuring their implementation by setting up in Cambodia an operation that will probably be the biggest and most complex in the history of the United Nations".

That is what Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar said today in Paris, while attending the resumed meeting on Cambodia. He also said in his

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This information medium not an official record

statement that in Cambodia, as elsewhere, the effectiveness and success of United Nations intervention were closely dependent on the full and complete cooperation of all the parties involved. Achieving peace was an ongoing battle, he said, adding that this was an "historic opportunity to win the battle for South-East Asia".

Earlier today, he witnessed the signing of the Cambodia Agreements -- a peace treaty to end the 13-year conflict and prepare the country for elections.

The Security Council decided on 16 October to establish a United Nations advance mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC) to assist in maintaining the present cease-fire, in preparation for a proposed United Nations Transitional Authority in that country. The Mission is expected to be fully deployed between mid-November and mid-December.

Also today, the Secretary-General met with his advisors on Cambodia, headed by Rafeeuddin Ahmed, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs in South-East Asia and Marrack Goulding, Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Affairs.

He then met with Nguyen Manh Can, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam, with whom he discussed the United Nations future role in Cambodia. He also met with Budimir Loncar, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Yugoslavia, with whom he discussed the situation in that country.

Later, the Secretary-General was guest to a luncheon in honour of heads of delegations at the Cambodia conference which was attended by the Foreign Ministers of the Permanent Members of the Security Council - with the exception of the United Kingdom.

Yesterday, 22 October, the Secretary-General paid a courtesy visit to Prince Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia.

The Secretary-General is expected back in New York tomorrow.

* * *

The Security Council held informal consultations today to hear a report by the Chairman of the Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament, Rolf Ekeus, on inspections of Iraqi weapons sites undertaken by the Commission.

Following consultations, Mr. Ekeus told correspondents that he had given the Council a detailed report on talks held in Baghdad with Iraqi authorities and on what future problems the Commission might expect.

Also speaking to correspondents, the United Kingdom's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Sir David Hannay, said Mr. Ekeus had explained to the Council the particular problem that Iraq could ask for exceptions to be made under a certain provision of resolution 687 (1991). That provision would allow Iraq to keep the buildings and equipment,

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previously designed for the conduct of programmes for weapons of mass destruction, under the condition that Iraq convince the IAEA and the Special Commission that the purpose in the future use of such buildings was a genuinely civil purpose. Mr. Ekeus had stressed that there would have to be a very careful monitoring of the particular sites to ensure that they were not reversed into their earlier illicit use.

* * *

In a message sent on the occasion of United Nations Day, which is celebrated tomorrow, Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar has appealed to the leaders of peoples "to ensure that freedoms recently gained and energies newly released are devoted to ends most conducive to human welfare".

The Secretary-General further noted that the role of the United Nations was no longer peripheral and its purpose no longer questioned. In his opinion, the Organization had become the rallying point for the effort to establish a new order of peace and justice that would promote human rights and eradicate poverty and other social plague.

In a separate message, the President of the General Assembly Samir S. Shihabi of Saudi Arabia, said that "it would be difficult to envisage what the world scene would look like today if the United Nations were not in existence and active in many diverse ways". He went on stating that "only the United Nations can contribute effectively to the solution of the global challenges", among which he listed arms race, poverty, regional conflicts and underdevelopment.

* * *

The new climate of cooperation prevailing today in the international affairs had resulted in an ever-increasing demand by the public and the media world-wide for the products and services offered by the Department of Public Information (DPI). This was the assessment made by Under-Secretary-General for Public Information Thérèse Paquet-Sévigny, who reviewed the work of DPI over the past year, as the Special Political Committee began consideration of questions relating to information.

Mrs. Sévigny said the Department had used a variety of media to increase visibility and public support concerning such issues as peace-making, peace-keeping, disarmament, human rights, anti-apartheid and economic and social development. She appealed to all Member States to be sensitive to the financial and resource constraints experienced by DPI and expressed her willingness to cooperate with them in addressing those problems.

Opening the general debate on information, the representatives of Pakistan, Ecuador, Brazil, Uruguay and Finland, on behalf of the five Nordic countries, all underlined the importance that their Governments attached to the free flow of information and the freedom of the press.

* * *

Speakers participating in the debate on the exploitation of the environment as a weapon in times of war, have told the General Assembly's Sixth Committee (Legal) that the recent conflict in the Gulf showed the need for a comprehensive legal regime for protection of the environment. Some speakers also stressed the need for all States to accede to and abide by existing international conventions aimed such protection.

Citing the vast environmental damage caused by oil wells set afire in Kuwait by Iraq, the representativwe of Switzerland, Dieter Chenaux-Repond, said existing conventions for the protection of the environment in times of armed conflict were pointless if their provisions were a "dead letter" when it came the time to enforce them.

Brazil's representative, Ronaldo Mota Sardenberg, said the issue was lack of compliance with existing treaties. He suggested that before initiating any new course of action, States should discuss ideas with the Red Cross and Red Crescent at their conference in Budapest next month.

* * *

The General Assembly yesterday recommended that Member States adopt or strengthen legislation protecting their own cultural heritage and continue drawing up, in cooperation with United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), systematic inventories of their cultural property both in their territory and abroad.

In adopting the resolution, which was introduced by the representative of Zaire, the Assembly also commended UNESCO for its efforts at reducing the illicit traffic in cultural property and promoting its return to the country of origin.

* * *

The representative of Algeria today told the Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) that his country had decided to make a voluntary contribution of $10 million for the implementation of the Secretary-General's plan for a referendum in Western Sahara.

Most of the speakers today voiced their support for the joint efforts of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to bring about a just and lasting settlement of the conflict in Western Sahara.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1003
24 October 1991

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Chairman of Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament briefs correspondents on progress achieved in past six months to destroy, remove or render harmless Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

- General Assembly welcomes establishment of Trust Fund for Peace to support activities of United Nations University for Peace.

- Anti-apartheid Committee calls on Japan to re-evaluate decision to lift economic sanctions against South Africa.

- Four countries of Northeast Asia agree on economic cooperation under auspices of United Nations Development Programme.

- Need to enhance communications' capabilities of developing countries stressed in Special Political Committee.

- Human Rights Committee, in examination of second periodic report of Morocco, expresses concern over evidence of restrictions of religious freedoms and women's rights.

* * *

The Chairman of the Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament, Rolf Ekeus, today briefed correspondents at Headquarters on a closed plenary meeting held by the 21-member Commission at Headquarters from 21 to 23 October.

He said the Commission had concluded during its meeting that it had "come quite far" with regard to the first phase of the implementation of section C of the Security Council's resolution 687 (1991) on the identification, size and format of the Iraqi weapons programme. That did not exclude, however, he said, that there were things that the Commission did not know about. Mr. Ekeus added that the Commission was underway with the destruction procedures -- in the chemical weapons area quite a number of items had already been destroyed. In the ballistic missiles area a large number of important heavy items had also been destroyed, he said.

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Referring to the two plans adopted by the Council with regard to verification and monitoring of Iraq's obligations not to acquire weapons of mass destruction again, Mr. Ekeus told correspondents that the Commission had also discussed during its two-day meeting the future compliance by Iraq.

Mr. Ekeus reported that, together with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which has the main responsibility for nuclear issues, the Special Commission had fielded 20 inspection teams, involving almost 300 individuals from 34 countries. The Special Commission would present a report to the Security Council at the beginning of next week.

* * *

The General Assembly this morning welcomed the establishment of the Trust Fund for Peace by the Secretary-General, which is expected to direct voluntary contributions, administered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to the University for Peace.

The University, established by the Assembly in 1980 as an international academic institution for humanistic education, offers master's degree programmes at its campus in Costa Rica and its European Centre for Peace and Development in Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

In adopting a resolution on the University, without a vote, the Assembly also invited Member States to contribute to the Fund and accede to the International Agreement for the University for Peace.

* * *

The Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid, Ibrahim A. Gambari, said in statement yesterday that the Committee had learned with concern that Japan had lifted almost all its economic sanctions against South Africa.

He said the Committee viewed the decision by Japan as "premature and counterproductive" to the sustained efforts by the international community to maintain a political leverage on South Africa that would assist South Africans in reaching a peaceful and democratic solution to their national problem.

The international community had not determined, and situations in South Africa did not yet warrant the view, that the process towards an apartheid-free South Africa had become "irreversible".

The Committee urged the Japanese Government to re-evaluate its decision, taking into account the present situation in South Africa.

* * *

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) announced today that four countries of Northeast Asia had agreed to collaborate on practical steps for economic cooperation, under its auspices. Calling the agreement "a historic

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act", the UNDP said that China, the two Koreas and Mongolia had endorsed, at a meeting in Pyongyang, a joint action plan for the development of the Tumen River Area. The plan was part of a larger economic and technical cooperation programme envisaged for the sub-region which was expected to lead to investments worth $30 billion over a period of twenty years. The UNDP said the Tumen area "could become another Rotterdam or Hong Kong" -- a trade and transport centre for the mainland Northeast Asia.

* * *

The need to narrow the gap between developed and developing countries' communications capabilities was stressed by speakers this morning as the Special Political Committee continued its consideration of questions relating to information.

Discussion focused on calls for establishment of a new world information and communications order which would narrow those differences while ensuring the free and unhindered flow of information between all States and regions. Several speakers considered that the new order should be based on the principles of the Charter and should embrace the principles of respect for the sovereignty and for the social and cultural values of States.

The view was expressed that the international press did not give adequate coverage to the interests of developing countries, the least developed countries in particular. It was further stated that use of new technologies could help such countries to convey their aspirations, achievements and views in the international media.

* * *

Concern over, among other things, evidence of secret detention centres, prolonged arbitrary detention and restrictions on the freedom of expression of religion in Morocco was expressed this morning by members of the Human Rights Committee meeting in Geneva. However, they also welcomed Morocco's cooperative attitude and recent positive developments in that country.

The comments from Committee members came at the end of the consideration of the second periodic report by Morocco, detailing how it gave effect to the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Making a final statement, the representative of Morocco, El Ghali Benhima, stressed the importance of relying on accurate information. The international community recognized that there was no perfect state of law, he said. Consolidating the state of law in Morocco was, in his opinion, a question of expanding the human rights horizons of the country.

* *** *